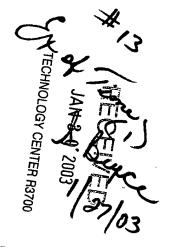


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 22, 2003.

John Nagy, Reg. No. 30,494



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Inventors: Dang et al.

Serial No. 09/660,812

Filed: September 12, 2000

For: COVERED STENT ASSEMBLY FOR REDUCED-SHORTENING DURING STENT EXPANSION

Examiner: Urmi Chattopadhyay

Group Art Unit: 3738

Client ID/Matter No. ACS 54573 (2311P)

January 22, 2003

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Box RCE Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests a one-month extension for filing a reply in the above-identified application. Applicants' response is submitted herewith. The requisite fee of \$110 pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a) is enclosed herewith.

01/28/2003 EAREGAY1 00000101 09660812

02 FC:1251

110.00 OP

Please charge any additional fee or credit any over-payment to our Deposit

Account No. 06-2425. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

Bv.

John S. N**a**gy

Registration No. 30,664

JSN:EPW:jeb Enclosure

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